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3 **So Ordered.**



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*Patricia C. Williams*  
Patricia C. Williams  
Bankruptcy Judge

**Dated: November 16th, 2012**

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

In re:

LLS AMERICA, LLC,

Debtor.

No. 09-06194-PCW11

BRUCE P. KRIEGMAN, solely in  
his capacity as court-appointed  
Chapter 11 Trustee for LLS America,  
LLC,

Plaintiff,

Adv. No. 11-80185-PCW

vs.

RICHARD NEEDHAM and PEARL  
NEEDHAM,

Defendants.

MEMORANDUM DECISION RE:  
DEFENDANTS RICHARD AND  
PEARL NEEDHAM'S MOTION TO  
DISMISS (ECF NO. 11)

This adversary is one of hundreds commenced by the trustee of the LLS America, LLC ("LLS America") bankruptcy estate, which adversaries seek, pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 548 and other causes of action, to recover money paid by the debtor to certain lenders or investors as part of an alleged Ponzi scheme conducted by the debtor. Defendants Richard and Pearl Needham filed a motion to dismiss on April 11, 2012, ECF No. 11.

In a similar adversary, *Kriegman v. Cooper*, No. 11-80093-PCW, a written decision was entered on July 2, 2012, ECF No. 146, regarding similar motions to dismiss and an oral decision was rendered on May 24, 2012, ECF No. 118, on the issue of

MEMORANDUM DECISION RE: . . . - Page 1

1 pleading fraud with particularity (“Previous Decision”). The issues regarding dismissal  
2 raised in the subject motion are the same as those raised in the Previous Decision. Many  
3 of the facts in the Previous Decision are relevant to the subject motion.

4 By supplemental affidavit of Curtis Frye (ECF No. 17), the trustee presented  
5 evidence in this case that the defendants loaned or invested \$120,000 (CAN) and eight  
6 (8) promissory notes were issued. In 88 distributions occurring from August 2004 to  
7 March 2009, the defendants received \$128,015.34 (CAN). According to the trustee, the  
8 defendants filed a proof of claim in the amount of \$176,429 (CAN) in the underlying  
9 LLS America case. By declaration (ECF No. 12), the defendants presented evidence that  
10 they reside in Canada, rarely travel to the United States, and each promissory note listed  
11 a Canadian entity as borrower with distributions only made from Canadian entities. The  
12 declaration further states that the loans or investments were solicited in Canada, but no  
13 details were provided regarding the manner of the solicitation.

14 The grounds for dismissal in the subject motion are: (1) ineffective service of  
15 process; (2) improper extraterritorial application of United States bankruptcy law; and  
16 (3) failure to state the alleged fraud with particularity as required by Fed. R. Civ. P.  
17 (9)(b). The reasoning regarding the denial of dismissal based on those grounds is set  
18 forth in the Previous Decision and is applicable to the subject motion.

19 As in the Previous Decision, one basis for the request to dismiss is the lack of  
20 personal jurisdiction. As articulated in the Previous Decision, the filing of a proof of  
21 claim is a consent to jurisdiction to adjudicate that claim and the related action brought  
22 by the trustee of the LLS America estate under 11 U.S.C. § 548. The reasoning regarding  
23 the denial of dismissal based upon a consent to personal jurisdiction is set forth in the  
24 Previous Decision and is applicable to the subject motion, which is **DENIED**. Counsel  
25 for the defendants shall submit an order consistent with this decision.

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27 ///END OF MEMORANDUM DECISION///  
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